

THOMAS GERLACH and DIRK DRÖGE
U.S. Patent Application S.N. 10/717,543

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

1. On page 1 after the title of the invention, please add the following heading and information --

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS - None

STATEMENT TO A "SEQUENCE LISTING", A TABLE OR COMPUTER LISTING APPENDIX - Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention.

2. Please amend paragraph 0001 on page 1 to read as follows --

[0001] The invention relates to a stapling device ~~according to the preamble to Claim 1~~ with at least two stapling heads attached to a staple carriage for stapling sheet like material wherein the distance between the stapling heads can be adjusted relative to one another.

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3. On page 1 before paragraph 0002, please add the following heading -

**(1) Description Of Related Art Including Information
Disclosed Under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.**

4. On page 2 before paragraph 0007, please add the following heading -

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

5. Please amend paragraph 0008 on page 2 to read as follows

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[0008] This object is achieved with a device ~~according to the preamble to Claim 1 based on its characterizing features~~ having at least two stapling heads in which at least one stapling head is moveable and one drive unit is provided for setting the distance between the stapling heads.

6. Please amend paragraph 0009 on page 2 to read as follows

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[0009] The measures, ~~specified in the subclaims enable~~
advantageous embodiments and further developments of the
invention include the addition of two clinchers in which at least
one clincher is moveable and one drive unit is provided for
setting the distance between the clinchers, the provision of a
guide for moveably accommodating the stapling heads and/or
clinchers, the application of electrically, electronically,
pneumatically and/or a hydraulically activated drive, the
coupling of the stapling head and clincher drive, the provision
of a linear guide for the stapling heads and/or clinchers, the
joining of the guide with the stapling head unit, the application
of a spindle drive for setting the distance between the stapling
heads and/or clinchers, employing a position sensor, the
provision of a reference position for at least one stapling head
and/or clincher, the provision of a position controller, the
provision of a locking device for at least one stapling head
and/or clincher, providing a drive for the locking device,
utilizing electrically, pneumatically or hydraulically actuated
means for actuating the locking device, designing the locking
device as a clamping device, fixing the clamping device relative
to the stapling carriage, connecting the moveable clamping

component with the stapling head and/or clincher, providing a clamping device with a pressure and/or tension component that exerts a force perpendicular to the shifting direction of the corresponding stapling head and/or clincher, and utilizing a pressure piston in the clamping device.

7. Please amend paragraph 00040 on page 10 to read as follows --

[0040] A stapling device according to the invention is preferably used in conjunction with a staple carriage of a gather-stapling machine ~~according to Claim 24~~ which is designed to move material to be stapled during the stapling operation. These gather-stapling machines are characterized in that a staple carriage or staple wagon is entrained in the motion of the stack of sheets in the gathering and transporting unit that are to be stapled during the stapling process, so that stapling takes place during transport of the material to be stapled. Therefore, the material to be stapled need not be stopped or decelerated for stapling purposes, and then accelerated again for continued transport. However, the staple carriage or staple wagon is exposed to corresponding deceleration and acceleration movements

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so as to execute the synchronous motion during the stapling process on the one hand, and return to the start position again for the next stack of sheets on the other.

8. On page 10 before paragraph 0041, please add the heading --

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).

9. On page 11 before paragraph 0043, please add the heading --

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION INCLUDING BEST MODE.

10. On page 17, please change "Claims" to -- **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS** --.